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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/084,102	02/27/2002	Michael Schmid	P2001,0140	6793

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

.2833

DATE MAILED: 07/24/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/084,102

Applicant(s)

SCHMID, MICHAEL

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 2/27/02 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

- (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
- (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1-2, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gierut (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,161). With regard to Claim 1, Gierut discloses a printed circuit board configuration, comprising: a first printed circuit board (Module 1) having first defined dimensions and a first portion (14a) of a plug connector (14), the first printed circuit board (Module 1) extending in a given plane; a second printed circuit board (Module 2) having a second portion (14b) of the plug connector (14), the second printed circuit board (Module 2) connectable to the first printed circuit board (Module 1) through the plug connector (14) to form a connected configuration; the first (Module 1) and second (Module 2) printed circuit boards both extending in the given plane when connected in the connected configuration; and the second printed circuit board (Module

2) having dimensions such that the connected configuration has second defined dimensions. See Fig. 1.

With regard to Claim 2, Gierut discloses the first defined dimensions correspond to a first standard; and the second defined dimensions correspond to a second standard. See Fig. 1.

With regard to Claim 8, Gierut discloses a printed circuit board assembly, comprising: a first printed circuit board (Module 1) having dimensions corresponding to a first dimension standard, the first printed circuit board (Module 1) substantially extending in a given plane; a second printed circuit board (Module 2) removably connected to the first printed circuit board (Module 1); the first (Module 1) and second (Module 2) printed circuit boards: forming a connected configuration when the second printed circuit board (Module 2) is connected to the first printed circuit board (Module 1); and both extending in the given plane when connected in the connected configuration; and the second printed circuit board (Module 2) being dimensioned to have the connected configuration correspond to a second dimension standard. See Fig. 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-7, and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gierut (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,161) in view of Leman (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,912). With regard to Claims 3-7 and 9-13, Gierut discloses the claimed invention except for the first standard being the μ ATX dimension standard, the second standard being the ATX dimension standard, and the second printed circuit board having slots for receiving plug-in cards.

Leman discloses an assembly having a circuit board (300) having a well known ATX dimension standard and slots (306) for receiving plug-in cards. See Fig. 5 and Column 2, Lines 32-42.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the assembly of Gierut by using boards with a well known ATX or any other well known dimension standard and slots for receiving plug-in cards as taught in Leman to make the assembly suitable for computer systems.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Grotenhuis (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,452), Siroky (U.S. Patent No. 5,716,220), Pinault (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,656), Heberling (U.S. Patent No. 4,938,701), and Gatti (U.S. Patent No. 5,827,074) disclose circuit board configurations having first and second circuit boards with different configurations and dimensions.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


THO D.TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833

EAL
July 15, 2002